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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/881,503	06/14/2001	James M. Kain	20341-67413	7771

23643 7590 11/05/2002

BARNES & THORNBURG  
11 SOUTH MERIDIAN  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

EXAMINER
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NELSON JR, MILTON

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3636

DATE MAILED: 11/05/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
**09/881,503**

Applicant(s)  
**Kain**

Examiner  
**Milton Nelson, Jr.**

Art Unit  
**3636**



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 14, 2002
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 4-8, 12-17, and 19-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 12-17 and 21-52 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 4-8, 19, 20, and 53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on Aug 14, 2002 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other:

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Drawings*

1. The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets of drawings, filed on August 14, 2002 have been approved. A proper drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The correction to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 2, 4-8, 19, 20 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In line 1 of claim 2, it is unclear if the "vehicle seat" is intended to represent the "vehicle seat assembly" of claim 12, from which claim 2 depends. Similarly note such in claims 4-8 and 19-20. In line 4 of claim 5, "the retracted or extended positions" lack proper antecedent basis. In line 3 of claim 6, "the extended position" lacks proper antecedent basis. In line 3 of claim 6, "the retracted position" lacks proper antecedent basis. In line 3 of claim 7, "the retracted position" lacks proper antecedent basis. In line 3 of claim 7, "the

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extended position” lacks proper antecedent basis. In lines 1 to 2 of claim 19, “the base connector” lacks proper antecedent basis. In claim 19, “the extended position” lacks proper antecedent basis. In claim 19, “the retracted position” lacks proper antecedent basis. In claim 20, “the base connector” lacks proper antecedent basis. In claim 20, “the retracted position” lacks proper antecedent basis. In line 3 of claim 53, it appears that “form” should be “from”.

Clarification is requested.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 12-17 and 21-52 are allowed.
5. Claims 2, 4-8, 19, 20 and 53 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Response to Amendment/Arguments***

6. Applicant’s response filed August 14, 2002 has been fully considered. Remaining issues are detailed in the above sections.

***Conclusion***

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7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Seat related article supports are shown by Zentmire (2635680), Norgaard (4942827), Spallholtz (5035464), and Kenney (4951997).

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group customer service representative at (703) 306-5771 or the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Milton Nelson, Jr. whose telephone number is (703) 308-2117. The

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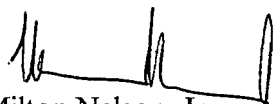
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examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 5:30 AM-3:00 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

The fax number for this Group is (703) 305-7687.

mn

October 31, 2002

  
Milton Nelson, Jr.  
Primary Examiner